

Amendment No. 4

Commissioner Levesque offered the following:

**Substitute Amendment to Amendment (Amendment No. 2) (with
ballot statement and title amendments)**

Remove line(s) 11-37 and insert:

That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE IX

EDUCATION

SECTION 1. Public funding of education.—

(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. This duty shall be fulfilled, at a minimum and not exclusively, through adequate ~~Adequate~~ provision ~~shall be made~~ by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education. Adequate provision shall also be made by law ~~and~~ for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other publicly funded ~~public~~ education programs for children and adults that the needs of the people may require.

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27 (b) To assure that children attending public schools
28 obtain a high quality education, the legislature shall make
29 adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010
30 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so
31 that:

32 (1) The maximum number of students who are assigned to
33 each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for
34 prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;

35 (2) The maximum number of students who are assigned to
36 each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for
37 grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and

38 (3) The maximum number of students who are assigned to
39 each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for
40 grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

41
42 The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to
43 extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with
44 reducing class size to meet these requirements is the
45 responsibility of the state and not of local schools districts.
46 Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the legislature shall
47 provide sufficient funds to reduce the average number of
48 students in each classroom by at least two students per year
49 until the maximum number of students per classroom does not
50 exceed the requirements of this subsection.

51 (c)~~(b)~~ Every four-year old child in Florida shall be
52 provided by the State a high quality pre-kindergarten learning
53 opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and
54 education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free,

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55 and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An
56 early childhood development and education program means an
57 organized program designed to address and enhance each child's
58 ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range
59 of settings in the development of language and cognitive
60 capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral
61 capacities through education in basic skills and such other
62 skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

63 (d)~~(e)~~ The early childhood education and development
64 programs provided by reason of subparagraph (c)~~(b)~~ shall be
65 implemented no later than the beginning of the 2005 school year
66 through funds generated in addition to those used for existing
67 education, health, and development programs. Existing education,
68 health, and development programs are those funded by the State
69 as of January 1, 2002 that provided for child or adult
70 education, health care, or development.

71
72 == B A L L O T S T A T E M E N T A M E N D M E N T ==

73 Remove lines 40-51 and insert:

74 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

75 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

76 MINIMUM, NONEXCLUSIVE DUTY FOR THE STATE TO ADEQUATELY
77 PROVIDE FOR THE EDUCATION OF FLORIDA'S CHILDREN.--Provides that
78 the constitutional requirement to provide Florida's children
79 with a "uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality
80 system of free public schools" is a minimum and nonexclusive
81 duty. Reverses legal precedent prohibiting public funding of

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private school alternatives as part of the state's school choice programs.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

Remove lines 1-7 and insert:

Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission

A resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of

Article IX of the State Constitution to provide that the

State Constitution establishes the state's minimum duty to

educate the children residing within the state.